

What Is Claimed Is:

1. A process of providing permanently distressed texture to a nonwoven fabric comprising the steps of:

- a. providing a precursor fibrous nonwoven web;
- b. providing a three-dimensional image transfer device;
- c. hydroentangling said precursor web on said image transfer device to form a patterned and imaged nonwoven fabric;
- d. laundering said formed patterned and imaged nonwoven fabric.
- e. said patterned and imaged nonwoven fabric taking on a distressed or wrinkled appearance; and
- f. said nonwoven fabric being suitable for use in apparel and home fashions industries.

2. A process of making a permanently distressed textured nonwoven fabric as in claim 1, wherein said precursor web is comprised of synthetic fibers, natural fibers, or blends thereof.

3. A process of making a permanently distressed textured nonwoven fabric as in claim 2, wherein said synthetic fiber is selected from the group consisting of polyamides, polyester, polyolefins, and the combinations thereof.

4. A process of making a permanently distressed textured nonwoven fabric as in claim 3, wherein said synthetic fiber is polyester.

5. A process of making a permanently distressed textured nonwoven fabric as in claim 2, wherein said natural fiber is selected from the group consisting of cotton, wood pulp, rayon and the combinations thereof.

6. A process of making a permanently distressed textured nonwoven fabric as in claim 1, wherein said nonwoven fabric is suitable for use in the apparel industry as a bottom weight or in the home fashions industry as a window covering, bed covering, or furniture cover.

7. A process of making a permanently distressed textured nonwoven fabric as in claim 3, including:

forming said nonwoven fabric into a roll subsequent to said laundering step.

8. A bottom weight garment comprising an imaged nonwoven fabric, said bottom weight garment having a jet dyed finish and a distressed appearance upon laundering, said bottom weight garment having a basis weight of 3.0-8.0 ounces per square yard and a fiber composition of cotton and polyester.

9. A home fashion articles comprising an imaged nonwoven fabric, said home fashion article having a jet dyed and/or printed finish as well as distressed appearance upon laundering, said home fashion article having a basis weight of 1.0-3.0 ounces per square yard and a fiber composition of polyester and lyocell or rayon fibers.

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